
Our sources of information are private communications and published comments in medical journals and the lay press. These are usually reliable but incorrect quotation or interpretation is always possible.

GROUP PRACTICE

In recognition of the widespread interest in group practice as a means of providing medical service, the Executive Committee has established a Special Committee on Group Practice and has provided the following terms of reference:

"The Special Committee on Group Practice shall be a Special Committee of, and shall report to the Executive Committee. It shall study patterns in group practice as they affect the doctor in relation to his medical community, and in particular -

- (a) The effect of group practice on the quality and adequate provision of medical care.
- (b) The application of group practice methods to the provision of medical care in rural and urban communities.
- (c) The organization of groups of various sizes and specialties, and the financial, ethical and legal relationships between group members.
- (d) The effects of group practice, including university and hospital groups, on solo practice in the same area, together with the advantages and disadvantages of each and its effect on hospital staffing.
- (e) The closed panel consumer-sponsored group in relation to medical services insurance.
- (f) The definition and description of groups by types of internal structure and composition, and the incidence of group and clinic practice in Canada.
- (g) The facilities available in group practice for graduate and undergraduate medical training, and for clinical research.
- (h) Advantages and disadvantages to an individual doctor joining a group.
- (i) Ability of a group to attract highly trained young men.
- (j) Comparative earnings in group and solo practice in amount and time.
- (k) Effect on care of individual patient.
- (l) Informal arrangement between solo practitioners to act as a group.
- (m) The effect of group or clinic practice on the standards of medical care in a community.

NEWS AND VIEWS on the economics of medicine (cont'd)

The personnel of the Special Committee on Group Practice is as follows: Dr. E. K. Lyon, Leamington, Chairman; Dr. J. M. Corston, Halifax; Dr. Murray Stalker, Ormstown; Dr. D. M. Drolet, Sherbrooke; Dr. S. N. Nathan, Toronto; Dr. W. I. Taylor, Toronto; Dr. Ross Turnbull, Barrie; and Dr. Thomas Lebbetter, Winnipeg.

An early task of the Committee was to define Group Practice and after a great deal of study and debate the following was agreed upon: " . . . at least three duly registered practitioners of medicine, practising together from a common office, sharing common records, pooling professional income and distributing earnings on a pre-arranged basis".

The next endeavour was to attempt to identify the existing groups and in this the member plans of T.C.M.P. rendered invaluable aid. The questionnaire here reproduced was sent to 439 physicians in nine provinces on the assumption that they were senior members of groups qualifying under the definition. An initial response of 55% was promptly obtained, but the Committee feels that additional groups may have been overlooked and that the missing 45% might be induced to make a return. Interesting data are already available but a more complete survey is being pursued.

"Your answers to the following questions will help The Canadian Medical Association's Committee on Group Practice in their study of Group Practice in Canada. The Committee is conducting a survey to determine the types and compositions of groups of medical practitioners in Canada with a view to providing factual information for doctors who may be contemplating group practice.

- (a) Please give: (1) name of group.....
(2) address.....
- (b) How many medical doctors are in your group?
(1) No. of General Practitioners (2) No. of Specialists.....
- (c) Is your group legally constituted as:
(1) A partnership — Yes..... No.....
(2) An association or corporation — Yes..... No.....
(3) Other (state)
- (d) Does your group share a common:
(1) Office Suite? Yes..... No..... (2) Or Building? Yes..... No.....
- (e) Does your group share common office records? Yes..... No.....
- (f) Does your group pool and distribute professional income on a prearranged basis?
Yes..... No.....
- (g) If other information about your group is desired by the Committee, to whom should their communications be sent?
- Date of completion.....
Completed by (name, print or type)

The above questionnaire should be regarded as an initial rough screen to determine the actual medical groups in Canada and respondents who qualify will receive a further detailed series of questions. Physicians who consider themselves to be working in a group which has not previously replied are invited to complete this questionnaire and return it to the Committee on Group Practice, C.M.A. House, 150 St. George Street, Toronto 5.